

## Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

USSS-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7851

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BIERUT IMMEDIATE

USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3690

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REF: TEL AVIV 7816

1. REFTEL MISSES A BASIC ASPECT OF BEIRUT'S 11891 AS I UNDERSTAND IT. (WE DO NOT HOLD BEIRUT'S 11877 AND 11878.) RECOMMENDATION TO AVOID INSISTING ON STATUS QUO ANTE IN OUR CALL FOR CEASE FIRE I AGREE COMPLETELY ON CALL FOR CEASE FIRE) IS NOT PLOY TO GAIN SCRAPS OF CREDIT WITH ARABS BUT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF US POSTURE IN MIDEAST NOW AND IN NEXT FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS AS WE ATTEMPT TO STIR MOVEMENT TOWARD TALKS BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS. IF WE CAN ASSUME (AND REFTEL CERTAINLY REINFORCES SUCH ASSUMPTION) THAT ISRAELIS ARE NOT  
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ABOUT TO STOP FIGHTING UNTIL THEY HAVE PUSHED ARABS BACK TO PRE-OCTOBER 6 LINES, AND THEY CAPABLE OF DOING SO, THEN NEITHER WE NOR ISRAELIS HAVE ANYTHING TO LOSE BY OUR ASKING FOR SIMPLE CEASE FIRE WHICH WILL NOT ACTUALLY COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL ISRAELIS HAVE

THEIR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BACK. WE HAVE GREAT DEAL TO LOSE --  
IN TERMS OUR VITAL OIL AND SECURITY INTERESTS IN AREA -- IF WE  
IDENTIFY OUR POSITION WITH ISRAELIS DURING WAR WITH ARABS.  
GIVEN ISRAELI SUPERIORITY AND DETERMINATION NOT ALLOW ARABS RETAIN  
GAINS THEY HAVE MADE, OUR INSISTENCE ON STATUS QUO ANTE IS NOT ONLY  
UNNECESSARY BUT ALSO DANGEROUS.

2. I THINK WE HAVE DONE EXACTLY RIGHT THING SO FAR: WE HAVE  
AVOIDED PUTTING BLAME ON EITHER SIDE FOR STARTING FIGHTING (DESPITE  
FACT WE KNOW WHO DID), AND PRESIDENT HAS ASKED SECRETARY TO  
INITIATE EFFORT BRING ABOUT CEASE FIRE. CONSIDERING OPPOSITION IN  
SECURTIY COUNCIL, CEASE FIRE WILL TAKE SOME TIME ARRANGE (LONG  
ENOUGH FOR ISRAELIS TO REGAIN LOST OCCUPIED LAND?). WE ARE  
EXACTLY IN MIDDLE POSTURALLY, AND THAT IS WHERE WE SHOULD STAY.

3. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL, ONE CAN CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THAT ISRAELIS ARE  
IN GRIM MOOD. WITH DUE ACCOUNT TAKEN OF FACT ARABS HAVE  
BROUGHT THEIR PROBLEMS UPON THEMSELVES THROUGH THEIR OWN REPEATED  
IDIOSIES, ARABS GRIM TOO. IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO US INTERESTS,  
THAT WE NOT LET EITHER ARABS OR ISRAELIS PUT US IN AN EITHER...OR  
POSITION. WE COULD FIND OURSELVES IN JUST SUCH POSITION IF ISRAELIS  
CANNOT BE PREVENTED FROM PUSHING ON DEEPER INTO EGYPT AND SYRIA  
AFTER REACHING PRE-OCTOBER 6 LINES.

4. PERSONALLY I THINK WE MAY HAVE GREAT OPPORTUNITY RIGHT NOW  
STRIKE BLOW TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF MIDEAST PROBLEM. ISRAELI RELUC-  
TANCE TO STOP FIGHTING BEFORE RETURNING TO PRE-OCTOBER 6 LINE  
PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE. ON OTHER HAND IT TO EVERYONE'S INTEREST  
(AT LEAST VERY MUCH TO US INTEREST) THAT TWO SIDES COME TO NEGOTI-  
ATING TABLE. MODEST ARAB GAINS ON BATTLEFIELD HAVE VIRTUALLY NO  
MILITARY/SECURITY VALUE BUT MIGHT HAVE GIVEN ARAB LEADERS ENOUGH  
INCENTIVE TO BRING THEM TO NEGOTIATE. AS PARALLEL EFFORT TO OUR CALL  
FOR CEASE FIRE, WHAT ABOUT SOUNDING OUT ISRAELIS, JORDANIANS,  
EGYPTIANS AND POSSIBLY SYRIANS ON IDEA THAT EACH SIDE SHOULD OFFER  
OTHER A TRUCE IN EXCHANGE FOR TALKS?  
STOLTZFUS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE INFO ABU DHABI  
AMMAN  
BIERUT  
CAIRO  
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LONON  
PARIS

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